

January 31, 2003

The Honorable George E. Pataki
Governor
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

I have read with great concern the draft report prepared at your direction by James Lee Witt Associates, LLC, entitled *Review of Emergency Preparedness at Indian Point and Millstone*. As you know, the report concludes that "the current radiological response system and capabilities are not adequate to . . . protect the people from an unacceptable dose of radiation in the event of a release from Indian Point."

The report includes a discussion of the fact that a substantial portion of western Connecticut is within the 50 mile "ingestion" Emergency Planning Zone boundary for Indian Point. It also notes that evacuation plans only cover areas within a 10-mile radius of the facility. While the Witt report does not directly address this obvious inadequacy, two points are clear. First, in the event of a nuclear emergency, people will choose to evacuate an area far greater than 10 miles from Indian Point, possibly including a significant portion of Connecticut. Second, there is no assurance that they will be able to do so safely or effectively. Depending on unknowable factors -- wind direction or amount of plant damage, for example -- hundreds of thousands of Connecticut citizens could be in danger.

In light of these facts, I urge you not to certify to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the emergency preparedness plans for Indian Point are adequate, since the Witt report demonstrates so cogently that they fail to meet minimal standards. In addition, for the same reasons, I urge you to support a temporary shutdown of Indian Point in the interest of public safety, until and unless these critical safety issues can be addressed.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

